



Office of Emergency Management

SUMMER QUARTER



JUNE, 2010

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TIP OF THE MONTH

Start planning now for your own neighborhood preparedness party! **Seattle Night Out** is August 3. Register on-line to get all the details.



LAST SPRING SNAP CLASS IS TUESDAY, JUNE 8

- **Delridge Branch Library**, 5614 Delridge Way SW, 98106, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Free, no registration.
- **SNAP** will resume in Sept.

Prepare to Party! New Holly Residents Build Fun into the Plan

If you ask Karin Ogren, eight-year New Holly resident, how she got started on preparedness, she'll tell you she has no idea. A couple of years ago, something in her said she just needed to be at a SNAP meeting, so she went.

During that meeting, one of many the city hosts throughout the year, she decided to take up the charge for her community. Between New Holly being considered high risk and having young children as real reasons to do it, it was a high priority. But she also faced a quandary and remembers thinking: "since disaster preparedness is not terribly exciting, or sexy – how am I go-

ing to do this?"

Then, it hit her, host a Costume Disaster Party!



How It All Began

In October 2008, friends and neighbors gathered, dressed as their favorite disasters, and in the spirit of fun and community, started on the road to becoming safer and stronger together. In addition to the "usual" disasters you might think of like

Earthquake and Fire, Ogren describes some of the other disasters who showed up at her door that night: Motherhood—clothes on backwards and food in her hair, Flu Epidemic—wearing pj's, bathrobe and runny nose, Financial Disaster—(the stock market had just plunged) and Teenager—with a zit

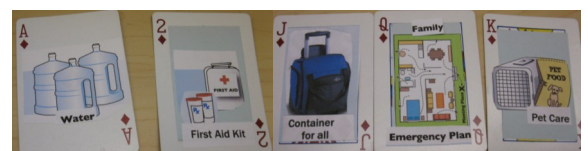
Party Games for All

Summer is the perfect time to get friends and neighbors together for a little fun with a twist. Try out these games at your next party:

Interactive Bingo—a great ice-breaker. Everyone gets the same card. As people walk around meeting each other, they find someone who's done one thing on their card and writes that name on the square (limit one square per person). The "winner" is the first to fill their card with nine different names and can introduce them to the group!

Supply Kit Bingo—borrow the set from Seattle OEM or create your own. Pass out a bingo card and nine 'chips' or pennies to each player. The 'caller' reveals individual emergency items from the stack. The winner yells "Bingo!" when they all nine pennies fill their card.

Preparedness Poker—cut and paste to modify a deck of 52 cards (samples shown) with emergency items of your choice. Play gin rummy, poker or other card favorite.



New Holly Makes it Fun

on the nose!

They played Interactive Bingo get to know one another, watched OEM's 17-minute preparedness video, passed out information, played Supply Kit Bingo, gave out door prizes and just had fun knowing what they were doing was influential and beneficial to all.

Pointers to Success

Ogren says she simply made good use of the resources provided by Seattle Emergency Management, and added a party format and costumes. One of the key elements, she says, was to

capitalize on the momentum that got started that night. Shortly afterwards, the group gathered again for an earthquake "hazard hunt" through the Ogren home, talked about what they found and raised awareness of hazards in the rooms of their different homes.

Another month later, they held a second meeting, formed emergency response teams and followed up with each other on their individual family plans.

The real credit, in Ogren's mind, goes to her neighbors who were gracious enough to attend and get something started for New Holly. The area is known for its diversity and affordability. Essentially, Ogren says, "a lot of like-

minded people are here, and it's a bit of a social experiment that people embrace."

Ogren and Brian, her husband, "fell in love with the south end," when each of them was doing volunteer programs in college, so it was natural to look in New Holly for their first home.

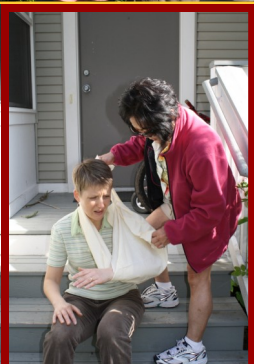
A real key to preparedness at New Holly, Ogren admits, is the level of trust neighbors have among each other. It would be difficult without that.

Today New Holly ... Tomorrow, All of New Holly!

Now that Ogren's neighbors have the preparedness bug, they've set their sights on helping all of New Holly (nearly 1,000

households!) get better prepared. Last summer they hosted a Preparedness Fair where folks met for food, information and fun. Ogren created Hazard Hunt posters of a kitchen, bathroom and living room where people worked by table group in multiple languages. Participants received starter emergency kits through Neighborhood Matching Funds, and OEM provided other small supplies and handout materials in nine languages.

This summer, they plan to build on last year's success and keep the momentum going. The Haiti earthquake in January had a big impact in New Holly, and people want to do what they can to take care of themselves and each other.



E-mail us your best preparedness tip, and you might be featured in the next newsletter! SNAP@seattle.gov

Preparedness Potluck: Bring Your Favorite "Disaster Food"

What is disaster food, you wonder? Certainly not just canned tuna. Check out these ideas, then improvise. Enjoy!

Earthquake Foods: anything that shakes, crumbles or falls apart—jello, crumb cake, pulled pork.

Fire Foods: anything hot, smoky or char-broiled—jalepenos, smoked salmon, barbecued anything.

Flood Foods: anything that's liquid or floats—soup, beverages, fruit parfait, iced tea.

Volcano Foods: anything that erupts, melts or flows—cheese sauce, lava cake, mashed potatoes?

Create your own category—serve Hurricanes, baked Alaska, flaming fondue, the possibilities are endless.